Kennedy, William Paul McClure (Professor of English) August, 1919 (003)

Kennedy

274

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO,
FACULTY UNION.

University Record: &c

First class Honours in Classics,
History, Modern Literature,
at Matriculation.

First Class in Classics, History,
Modern Literature & prizeman
in undergraduate course.
Vice Chancellor's Prizeman in
English Prose.
Shakspere Historical Research Prizeman.
Graduated with First Class Honours,
Gold Medal, Senior Moderatorship
& Exhibition.
Graduated with Graduate degree
in Modern History (D. Litt)
Fellow Royal Historical Society (F.R.Hist.S.)

(over)

Editor of:-

Documents of the Reformation Period, 1536-1575.

(3 vols. Longmans 1909-1912)

Wrote D. W.H. Frere, Trinity College (Cambridge)

Documents of the Canadian Constitution.

(Oxford Press 1918)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FACULTY UNION

Publications &c.

Contributor to English Historical Review, American Historical Review, Times Literary Supplement, New Statesman &c.

On reviewing staff of two leading historical reviews.

Author of:-

The Elizabethan Interpretations, with an appendix of unpublished MSS. (Longmans, 1906)

Life of Archbishop Parker (~~Longmans~~ Pitman 1908)

(written under direction of Dr. W. H. Hutton St. John's Coll. Oxford.)

Studies in Tudor History. (Constable. 1915)

Historical Introduction to the Canadian Constitution (Sweet & Maxwell, 1917)

Reply in time
for letter re N.S.T.
somewhere
4. Aug. 1919.

WULFRUNA,
LAKE MUSKOKA,
WHITESIDE, P.O.
ONTARIO.

288

My dear Sir Robert,

I wrote to you some time ago to St. George St., telling you how we were getting on, but I fear my letter must have gone astray as I got no reply.

The children are splendid

& I have an excellent person
in charge a Miss Harp
Who is a freind of Dr
Wundesteri of Kirst church
Her father was co-worker
with R. L. Stevenson's.
For myself, I might
be better & worse. Susannia

pleurisy hard with me & arterial
trouble is threatening. I have
been in doctor's charge since
the middle of June. Die at to
go very slowly.

By the way, I want to
tell you that I consider
the money I got through your

kindness a debt. It may
be long indeed till it is
wiped out, but I owed
her conscientiously let
it go as a gift.

With kindest regards
Wm Gladstone,

Ever yours,
I am,
W. H. Kennedy

Whiteside P.O.
Muskoka, Ont.
Aug. 15. 1919.

Dear Sir Robert,

I hope you are having a rest from the cares of University administration - a hope that is all the more sincere because my present subject is an intrusion I owes wish to avoid. As perhaps you know from my address, I am in close proximity to Kennedy's place and in consequence have been promoted to the position of chief counsellor, some advice being in demand continually. The present crisis is due to two mishaps: first, on Tuesday last some affair in England greatly upset him: on Wednesday we ran into Bala at 3 P.M. and there received telephone messages that the wharf, boathouse, and some part of the woods were burning. We got back to find the boat-house absolutely gone; the wharf gutted, and an ugly black patch on the shore. If the usual west wind had been blowing, everything of his and my estate must have been wiped out. In a sense the loss is small, that is to say we were too grateful for the saving grace of a south-east gale to feel anything but relief.

Kennedy however was temporarily unhinged – not to say deranged, and he has asked me to write to you. In brief, he can talk of nothing but getting away for the next year. He certainly seems ill, and his doctor is giving him strong tonics daily. In my opinion he is largely living on the physical (or psychological) value of drugs. At times he seems to collapse, and the doctor is prepared to certify that he is incapable of physical or mental exertion. He seems to have nothing organically wrong, and what I am now writing is simply what I am authorised to say. Personally I am unable to understand the exact situation. I am Observant and have some general knowledge of medical data. To some extent temperament is certainly the root of the evil: but that is hardest of all to cure. In short, Kennedy now believes himself on the verge of a total collapse: he thinks, and reports to me that his doctor thinks, he cannot risk beginning the next term's work. You know something of his financial position. Do you suppose he could get leave of absence with sufficient pay to enable him to live in England next year, leaving the children to his mother-in-law's care?

perpetual state of agitation until something is settled. I might say much more, but I do not feel free to write further. His Doctor is Burgess, Bala, and you might get a report from him. I hear through Kennedy that the Doctor says he suffers from hardening of the arteries and several lack of tone: but you would do well to ask Burgess to make a statement: I told him we should refer you to him. Kennedy has written himself to Alexander and to Wrong, but he finds it difficult to do anything and asked me to communicate with you.

I hope you have all been enjoying Huntsville: we often think of your place and your neat launch — but Huntsville was too far for our babes.

With kindest regards from my wife and myself to all.

Sincerely yours

G. S. Brett.

With this question my undertaking is discharged. I can only add that we are as it were in the wash of Kennedy's misfortunes and assure you that Kennedy himself seems entirely submerged: he made a fatal mistake in ever coming to this place this summer.

Our family furnishes in a little old farm house, from which it is ten minutes walk to the point where I am building my cottage. The local architect drew my plans and made estimates for $2720. He was surprised when I substituted my own plan, on a 34 foot basis with eight rooms and undertook to build it for $1200. As all my lumber, of first quality, was delivered from the Bala mills for $683, he is beginning to see that I shall do it! After this annihilation I got a 21' launch to carry six or eight people, with a Gray engine that makes ten miles an hour, for less than I care to mention and against every body's advice: but the boat has one virtue - it always goes! So altogether we are mixing work (I build from 9 to 5 daily) and adventure most successfully.

I must leave my original topic to your consideration. Kennedy will be in a

Huntsville, P.O. Ont.

Aug. 19 1913.

Dear Professor Brett;

What a tragic series of misfortunes follows poor Kennedy. What he would do without you as a counsellor I cannot imagine, though I regret that in this capacity you must lose so much of the benefit if your holiday. Like you I am greatly perplexed , for his wife's death alone would surely not have brought him into such a collapse. The situation is the more complicated owing to the sense of Wrong. However this seems clear that if the Doctor says that he must have release from his teaching we must try to arrange it for him. But Wrong is already short handed , and he would have to get a substitute for Kennedy. I am not in a position to say at present what the Governors would do in the matter of salary, but they always deal as generously as possible. I am going into Toronto on Monday for two days, and if the Doctor could send me by Monday at to my office a letter stating fully his view of Kennedy's condition, I might have data that would be of service to us. Would it be too much for you to explain to the Doctor the kind of information which you knowing the case think would be most useful to me? I am sorry to trouble you, but it seems to me that I might get some more direct information than if I were to write.

You can keep a cheerful temper in trying circumstances. We were watching fires in the South last week, but escaped any anxiety ourselves. Your experience I can well imagine must have been very upsetting. As for your house I expect you will be as proud of it as of the "Government of Man". If it keeps you dry in this weather you will be a genius of a carpenter.

With kindest regards to Mrs Brett and yourself in which my wife joins

I am yours sincerely,

WULFRUNA,
LAKE MUSKOKA,
WHITESIDE, P.O.
ONTARIO.

My dear Sir Robert,

Brett told me that he heard from you last night. I had already written to you after a previous visit from the Doctor. I sent the letter to Huntsville. I am however, writing to the city to catch you.

The doctor's report is very favourable & he thinks there is good improvement. I asked

can be. I shall begin work
there as usual in the Fall.
The rains have completely put
out the fire on my place — but
the damage to trees is woeful,
& wharf & boathouse no longer
exist & I had not unfortunately
insured them.
Really I must apologize for

about my work & he said there
was no reason now for immediate
action. The new medicine seems
to be doing me good & I certainly
feel better than since April.
I am hastening to let you know
as I have no wish personally
to get leave of absence if it can
possibly be avoided & from
Dr Burgess' report it apparently

worrying me so much, but
for several weeks I seemed
to be going down to a break up;
& I let it go as long as I could
I am cheered up by the doctor's
latest, as the whole future of
the Kiddies depends on my
health. Ever yours,

E. Rutherford

Whitedide P.O.
Muskoka.

Aug 23. 1913.

Dear Sir Robert,

Many thanks for your kind letter. I write in haste to say that affairs in general seem to be improved. I asked Kennedy outright whether he was wished to press his application and I understand that he does not: the doctor widently told him that he might very well get fit enough to do his work, and this, with other collateral inducements, has brought about a change for the better. I think, for the present, no step need be taken. If the work proves to be too much for him, the trouble must be met when it comes. Personally I think he may well be better in work than out of it.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely
G.S. Brett.